Mount Wachusett Community College

Fall 2010

Volume 2 • Number 1

CareerFocus™

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HERE'S THE "SILVER LINING"

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MWCC Offers Flexible Classes for Busy People

BROADCASTING & ELECTRONIC MEDIA:

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- Go to www.mwcc.edu, click on **"WebConnect,"** or
- Contact the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, or in person

New/Former Students:

Students new to MWCC, or those who have not taken courses at MWCC in the past 12 months can:

- **apply online at www.mwcc.edu**, or
- contact the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, or in person.

All new students are required to complete college placement testing, and must meet prerequisite requirements prior to course selection.

Course Schedules

- Courses fill fast and new sections open continuously. Find the most up-to-date listings online: **www.mwcc.edu/fall2010**.
- To obtain a print version of the class schedule call (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu, or pick one up in person.

Fast forward your career and your life with noncredit courses

Go to www.mwcc.edu/LLL or call (978) 630-9124 for the fall 2010 brochure!

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- Test Preparation
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- Comedy
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- Dance
- Photography
- Programs for Pre-teens & Teens

Mount Wachusett Community College

MWCC Campus Locations & Hours

Gardner Campus
444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 632-6600
Email: admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Leominster Campus
100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 840-3221
Email: leominster@mwcc.mass.edu

Devens Campus
One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Road, Devens, MA 01434
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 630-9569
Email: devens@mwcc.mass.edu

Questions about the MWCC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu. Comments and questions about the publication itself can be directed to the MWCC marketing department, (978) 630-9122.

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Mount Wachusett Community College

CareerFocus™

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Silver Linings: Turning Job Loss into a Brand New Beginning

By Janice O'Connor

Losing a job is never easy. Many area residents are weathering this storm by looking for the silver lining. They're realizing that the time following a job loss is perfect for reevaluating goals and values to determine if there's a better, more satisfying career on the horizon.

Scott Brown, a husband and father of two, took this approach after he was laid off in August 2007.

"Back in 1992, after graduating from North Middlesex Regional High School, I attended one semester at Mount Wachusett Community College. I did not return because of a job opportunity. After 17 years in the sheet metal industry, I was laid off due to a downturn in business for the company I was working for, and the industry as a whole. After three solid months of looking for work in my field and yielding nothing, it was time for a choice."

Scott Brown

New direction

Encouraged by his wife, Julie, to return to college, Brown enrolled at MWCC as a full-time student in the spring 2008 semester, and since that time has become actively involved in numerous campus and volunteer activities that have not only benefited him academically, but professionally. Most recently, the Rindge, N.H. resident has served as president of the Alpha Beta Gamma business honor society. After graduating this May with an associate degree in Business Administration, he will remain at the college for one more year in the "3 Plus ONE" transfer agreement with Nichols College, before earning his bachelor's degree from Nichols. During the upcoming year, Brown will serve as president of the Student Government Association.

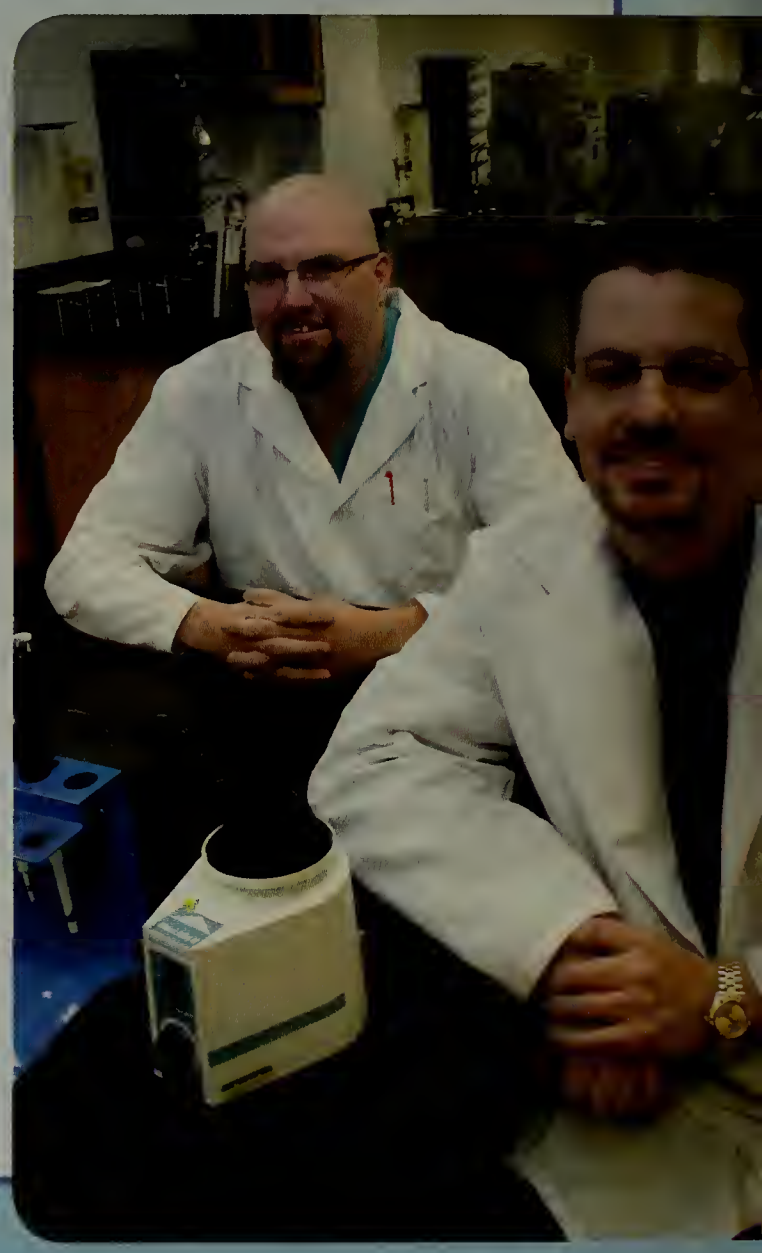
"The education I received at MWCC is invaluable," says Brown. "The professors I have had all have real life experience and teach you not only the procedural side of things, but the practical as well. That is what is needed to succeed in today's tough, highly competitive job market."

Opportunity for change

Section 30 of the Massachusetts Employment and Training Law allows the Division of Unemployment Assistance to waive the requirement that unemployed individuals actively search for work while they are enrolled in an agency-approved training program. This often extends the benefit period for many individuals, and in some cases, unemployed students also qualify to have the cost of their academic program covered through a separate dislocated workers program.

Patrick Armstrong of Ayer worked for 12 years as an environmental scientist, restoring brownfield sites for companies or communities seeking a new use for the properties. When the economy put the squeeze on capital funds for this type of work, remediation projects started dwindling, and so did jobs. Armstrong found himself among the unemployed.

"When I was looking into all the things I could do, I thought biotechnology would be the most suitable to the skills I had accumulated, with over a decade of experience. You couldn't help but hear



Scott Howland and Patrick Armstrong

about biotechnology in Massachusetts, and it definitely piqued my interest."

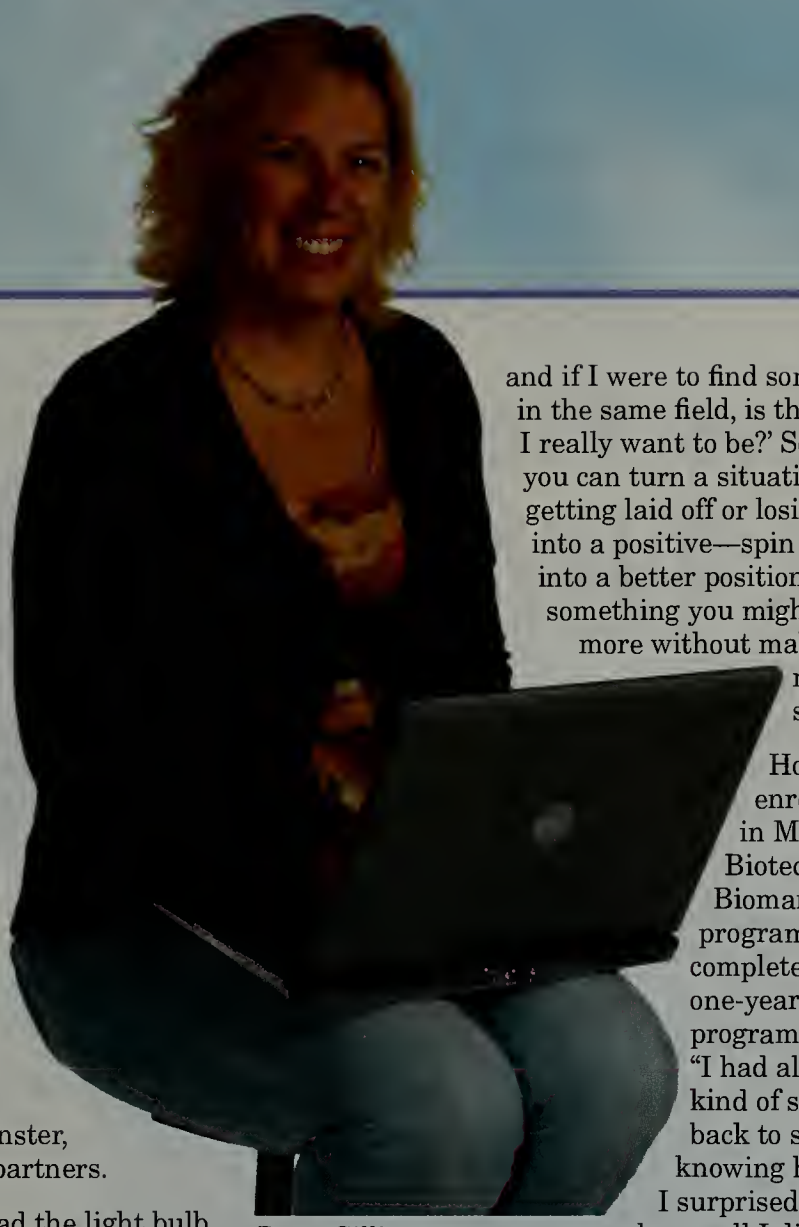
Armstrong, a married father of two, learned that not only would he be eligible for extended unemployment benefits, but he also was eligible to have one year of a full-time academic program covered through the Dislocated Workers Services Program through the North Central Career Center in Leominster, one of MWCC's partners.

"Last spring, I had the light bulb over your head moment, and so I made the transition. I was apprehensive at first. I didn't know what to expect, but once I got into the classroom, I saw that I wasn't the only older student. There were a lot of people like me, career changers. Whatever apprehension I had going in melted away the first day." Armstrong graduated in May with a certificate in Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing, and is on track to complete an associate degree in the program by the end of the year.

Reevaluating your goals

Scott Howland, a husband and father of two from Athol, had a similar experience.

"What I've seen over my time in the semiconductor field is there are a lot of ups and downs. I had weathered most of them until April 2009. Sending out resumes in the industry is very finicky, and a lot of the work is going overseas, too. That's why I chose to change direction, go back to school, find something that was a little more current in the economy and frankly a little more interesting to me. It's very worthwhile to sit back and think, 'what am I doing now, and if I were to find something in the same field, is that where I really want to be?' Sometimes you can turn a situation like getting laid off or losing a job into a positive—spin yourself into a better position to something you might enjoy more without making too many sacrifices."



Dawn Gilliatt

Howland enrolled in MWCC's Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing program and completed the one-year certificate program in May. "I had always been kind of scared to go back to school, not knowing how I'd do. I surprised myself at how well I did and how much I enjoyed it."

Do what you always wanted

Dawn Gilliatt of Templeton is also taking an optimistic approach to the economic downturn. After being laid off from her job as an administrator at a child care center due to the recession, she enrolled at MWCC to earn an associate degree in Business Administration. She is not only able to collect her unemployment benefits, but she is eligible to have the benefits extended through the state's Section 30 Training Opportunities Program while she is enrolled as a full-time student.

"I'm ecstatic over this, that I have an opportunity to go for my business degree. I've been in the business end of the field but was never able to pursue a business degree because I couldn't afford to work and go to school at the same time." A single mother of three teenagers, Gilliatt took all four of her spring courses online. "It's a huge convenience," she says.

Gilliatt, who has an associate degree in Early Childhood Education from Mass Bay Community College, transferred core credits she had earned toward the business degree. "Because of that, I'm already halfway done," she says.

Pursuing your passion

Fitchburg resident James McCormack worked in the printing industry from 1983 to November 2009, when he lost his job due to the flagging economy. Although he had built a reputation as a top pressman in the industry, he viewed the layoff as an opportunity to shift gears altogether and pursue his passion—health and fitness. Having previously managed a karate studio in Fitchburg, this black belt master sought advice from the North Central Career Center and MWCC.

He is now enrolled as a full-time student majoring in the Liberal Arts—Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science program, and expects to graduate with an associate degree next year.

"This is something I started 10 years ago and never should have walked away from," says McCormack, a father of three who previously had attended MWCC to study massage therapy. "I'm really glad I made the decision to return. Age is not a factor; it's all mind set," he says.

"From a career counselor's point of view, these are ideal students, because they're pursuing their passion," says Michelle Contey, an unemployment and retraining advisor in MWCC's Advising & Counseling Center. "They have an opportunity now to come back and pursue what they really want to do."

The connections Brown made with local business leaders through his volunteer and extracurricular experiences at MWCC eventually led to a position as an auditor at a North Central Massachusetts hotel, where he plans to continue working full time while pursuing his bachelor's degree.

"If I had the opportunity to give advice to others, I would say explore every opportunity and network, network, network," he says. "Even if you are not looking for a job at the moment, highlight your strengths and show them off every chance you get. You never know who might see you shine." **CF**

"But I Don't Have Time To Go To College!"

MWCC Offers Flexible Classes for Busy People

Between the job and the kids (and the bills and the lawn and the car repair) how can you ever find time to take those classes you need or get the degree you always wanted?

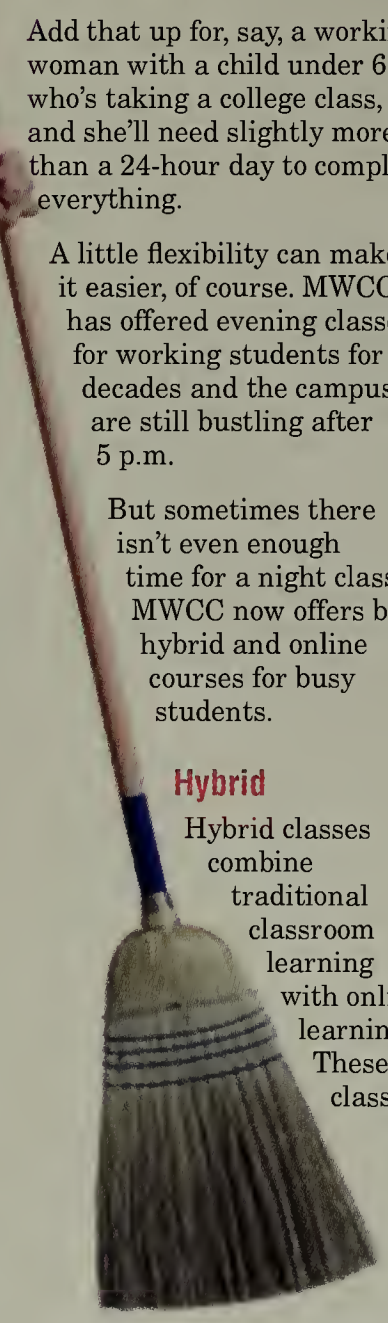
Every year the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys Americans about their daily activities. The results in 2008 showed most adults are pretty busy folks:

- The average person works 7.6 hours a day
- The average person sleeps 8.6 hours a night.
- In a day, the average person spends 1.75 hours on household work.
- Those who attended class on a weekday spend an average of 5.3 hours doing so, and those who did homework and research on a weekday spend 2.7 hours on their schoolwork.
- Women with children under age 6 spend 1.2 hours bathing and feeding children.

Add that up for, say, a working woman with a child under 6, who's taking a college class, and she'll need slightly more than a 24-hour day to complete everything.

A little flexibility can make it easier, of course. MWCC has offered evening classes for working students for decades and the campuses are still bustling after 5 p.m.

But sometimes there isn't even enough time for a night class. MWCC now offers both hybrid and online courses for busy students.



Hybrid

Hybrid classes combine traditional classroom learning with online learning. These classes typically meet on campus 1/3 as often as a traditional class. For example, a traditional three credit class meets twice a week for 90 minutes, but that same hybrid class meets just once a week and students spend the rest of the time outside of class working on assignments on their own schedule.

MWCC's hybrid courses are offered at MWCC's Devens Campus at 27 Jackson Road and include courses in business, computers, psychology, sociology, Spanish and speech.

In hybrid classes, students spend their time outside of class engaging in online discussions or working on assignments online. Because so much learning takes place on their own time, when they meet in class, they can dive deeper into the material, ask more questions and explore ideas more thoroughly with their instructor.

But what do students like best about hybrid classes? The convenience. They spend less time driving to campus, spend less money on gas, and they can do their work when and where they want.

Online courses

For some people, especially those with young children, being away from home can be very challenging. Online courses allow individuals to pursue their education at home at times most convenient to them.

"Flexibility in scheduling is probably the number one reason why online learning is so popular," says Vincent Ialenti, dean of academic and institutional technology. "You can do your coursework whenever you want, wherever you want—be it during a break at work, or at night after the kids have gone to bed. There's no set time you have to be online."

That flexibility, however, doesn't equate to self-paced learning—a common misperception. Students still need to keep up with regular semester schedules and course objectives.

For Nursing student Elaine Woodward, who completed many of the pre-requisites for the Nursing program online, flexibility was a key factor. "I work 40 hours a week and have three children at home, but I was still able to complete six credits per semester taking online courses," she says. "I could sit on my deck in my pajamas in the morning and go to class or I could come home at night after work and go to class. Anytime that was convenient for me, I could go to school."

To some students, taking courses online may sound like an isolated way to go to college. But Ialenti explains students can engage in plenty of interaction. Instructors, for instance, post questions on discussion boards, which provide opportunity to communicate and respond to other students electronically. "In many cases students and instructors get to know each other as well as in an on-campus course."

"Some students actually find they get more attention with an online course because of the opportunity to interact with instructors online," Ialenti says. "So lots of students who may not speak up in class may find it easier to answer or ask a question."

For Nursing student Elaine Woodward, who completed many of the pre-requisites for the Nursing program online, flexibility was a key factor. "I work 40 hours a week and have three children at home, but I was still able to complete six credits per semester taking online courses," she says. "I could sit on my deck in my pajamas in the morning and go to class or I could come home at night after work and go to class. Anytime that was convenient for me, I could go to school."

More options

"Just 12 years ago, MWCC launched Internet-based learning by offering two courses. Today, MWCC offers 88 online courses. This past spring, there were 1,950 online course registrations, a 20 percent increase over last year." says Ialenti. He adds that in the past year, 30 percent of all credit students were enrolled in at least one online course.

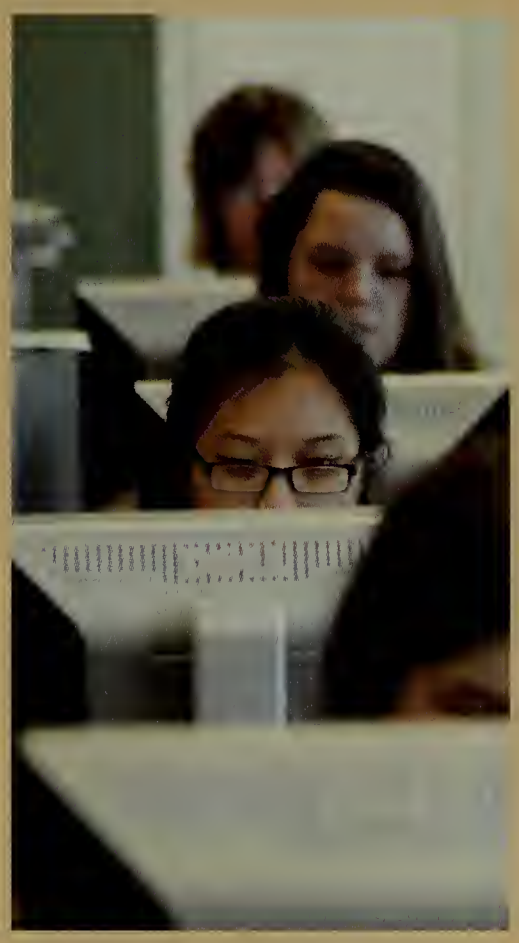
MWCC also brokers additional online courses through Mass Colleges Online (MCO), which adds to students' course selections and opportunities. Through MCO, online credit courses offered by Massachusetts public colleges all over the state are available to students.

Students who are interested in learning new skills, but are not necessarily seeking college credit courses can also choose from over 500 online noncredit courses offered through MWCC. **CF**

MWCC Programs You Can Complete Almost Entirely Online

Accounting Option Degree* 95%
Business Administration—Career Degree 90%
Business Administration—Transfer Degree 90%
Communications Concentration Degree* 90%
Computer Information Systems 95%
General Studies Degree 100%
Human Services Degree 95%
Liberal Arts Degree 95%
Liberal Studies Degree 100%
Paralegal Studies Degree 100%
Pre-engineering Track Degree* 75%
Business Administration Certificate 100%
Paralegal Certificate 100%
Small Business Management Certificate 100%

**denotes a concentration of a degree*



Paralegal Professor Likes the Convenience of Online Courses for Students

Jim Korman, J.D.
MWCC Paralegal Professor

Paralegal Professor Jim Korman, J.D. has been teaching courses online for six years, including Business Law I and II and Introduction to Family Law. Currently, MWCC's Paralegal Degree and Certificate programs can be completed 100 percent online (as well as at MWCC's Gardner and Leominster Campuses). According to Korman, online is the fastest growing modality for Paralegal courses, and many students are taking a combination of courses in both online and on-campus formats.

What do you like about online courses?

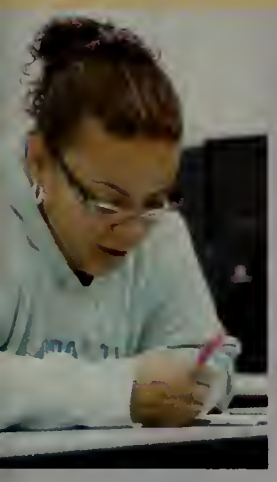
"I like the added flexibility it gives students. Those who work full-time, part-time, have kids, or have transportation issues can still participate. Some people only have pockets of free time for a class, and because the courses are asynchronous, meaning the courses don't meet at a regular time, they can fit it into their schedule. We have parents who do homework once their children are in bed. Some have a work environment that allows them to complete coursework while on their lunch break. Many of these students are fitting their courses in at all different times of the day."

What kind of student should take an online class?

"Online students need to be independent learners. The students who do best are those who are ready to take on the challenge, follow the syllabus, know what is expected of them, and then budget their time appropriately. They need to be disciplined enough to pace themselves over the course of the semester."

Do students receive personal attention in an online course?

"Students communicate through a discussion board, phone conversations, and through online communication tools. The format of the course requires students to reach out to classmates and the instructor. I frequently dialogue with students to ensure they are keeping on track. If students have a question, they have to reach out and ask, otherwise, I won't know they have a question. Therefore, communication is very important." **CF**



For more information on:

MWCC Online Credit Courses go to: **http://www.mwcc.edu/distance**

Noncredit MWCC Courses: **http://www.mwcc.edu/LLL/onlinetraining.html**

Mass Colleges Online Courses: **http://www.mco.mass.edu**

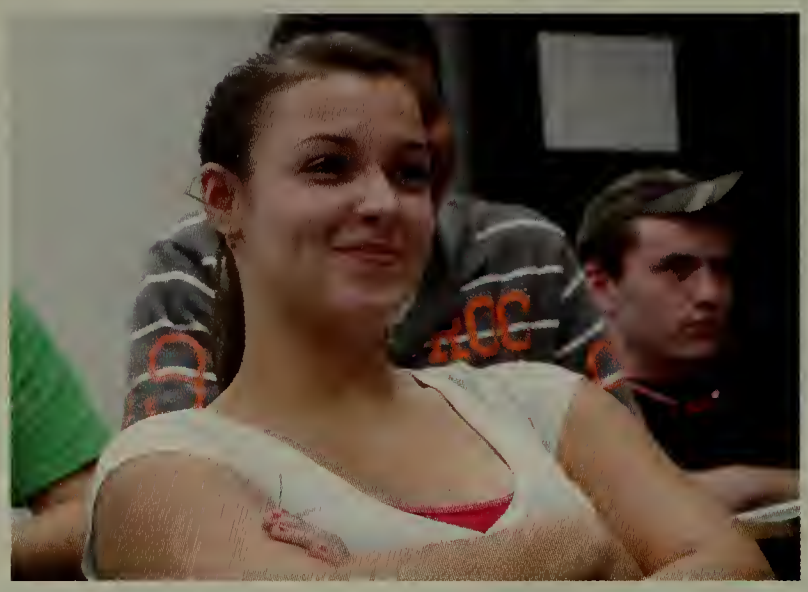
Hidden Treasure:

Money for College You May Not Have Known About

(But Could Add Up to Big Savings!)

By Nichole Carter

Financing can become the biggest challenge for many when considering college. However, if you're thinking you can't afford college, there is no need to throw in the towel. In addition to federal financial aid, there are so many different funds available—money from sources that many don't think of or know about! Money might be available, not only for tuition and fees, but for other expenses that really add up while you're in college like childcare, text books, etc…



An MWCC education costs approximately $4,470 a year. "Most MWCC students receive some sort of financial aid, grants, scholarships, or student loans," says JoEllen Soucier, director of student records and financial management.

The first step to financing your education is to apply for financial aid. Begin by filling out the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you need any assistance with the online FAFSA, contact the MWCC Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) at (978) 840-0176.

Here are some additional options that MWCC students can take advantage of to make their education even more affordable.

FUNDS FOR CHILDCARE

Need money for childcare?

Through a CCAMPIS grant (Child Care Access Means Parents in School), students can receive childcare subsidies if they are currently receiving a Pell grant. Subsidies range from 20, 40 or 60 percent depending on your expected family contribution. This is a federal grant authorized by the Higher Education Act and administered by the U. S. Department of Education. For more information, contact Deirdre Moran (978) 630-9190.

Have young children?

The James Garrison Childcare Stipend is for Early Childhood Education majors who demonstrate financial need and have children ages 2.9 to 5 enrolled at the Garrison Education Center at MWCC. The stipend assists with childcare costs. Go to www.mwcc.edu/financial for more information on how to apply.

FUNDS FOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Did well on the MCAS?

High school students who scored in the top 25th percentile in their school district on the MCAS are eligible to receive non-need based, state-supported tuition waivers if they attend a Mass. community college, state college, or university. This program is provided through the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship by the Department of Education. Students must attend full-time and maintain a 3.0 QPA to remain eligible. Go to www.osfa.mass.edu for more information.

Get good grades?

In addition to receiving an extra challenge in the classroom and benefiting from a close-knit supportive honors community, student in MWCC's Commonwealth Honors Program receive a tuition waiver (not fees) their last semester at MWCC. This would be $300 in savings for a 12 credit course load.

Doing well in your major?

There are several merit awards given in the spring through MWCC academic departments to assist students with costs for their second year. The deadline to complete the MWCC scholarship application is March 10 and the application is available at the financial aid office or online at http://www.mwcc.edu/financial.

FUNDS FOR PARTICULAR PROFESSIONALS

Interested in working with children?

There are several scholarships and funds for students interested in pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE). Assistance is available through MWCC Foundation, Inc. in the form of scholarships as well as to fund childcare while parents are in class. For more information, go to www.mwcc.edu/financial. The Mass. Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) also offers scholarships for up to three courses a semester for those working in a DEEC licensed program completing their education requirements to

become licensed. Go to http://www.eec.state.ma.us for more information.

Interested in biomanufacturing?

Students can prepare for entry-level careers in biomanufacturing through an intensive 12-week, selective biomanufacturing Workforce Training Program. The program cost of $5,250 is covered by a U.S. Department of Labor grant or other sources. Students can receive up to 11 credits toward MWCC's Biotechnology Degree. Additionally, $80,000 is available in scholarships for those pursuing a degree or certificate in biotechnology. See page 15 for more information.

FUNDS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Unemployed?

Section 30 of the Massachusetts Employment and Training Law allows the Division of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to waive an active work search by claimants, allowing them to continue to collect their unemployment insurance (UI) benefits while in agency-approved training. Students are responsible, however, for finding and obtaining funding for their training. This is a great option for those who are unemployed, permanently separated from their previous employer and who, due to their current skill level, are unlikely to find employment. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid and check with their local career center to see if training funds are available. If you are collecting unemployment insurance from DUA and are interested in exploring training at MWCC, contact Michelle Contey or Amy LaBarge at (978) 630-9568 at the Gardner Campus or (978) 840-3221 ext.160 at the Leominster Campus.

Served your country?

GI bills have provided tuition benefits for active and returning veterans for years. Now, the new Post 9/11 GI Bill, offers greatly enhanced benefits for those serving their country after 9/11. Based upon the length of service, veterans are entitled to receive a percentage, up to 100 percent, of the following: the cost of tuition and fees up to the highest in-state undergraduate rate; a monthly housing allowance; and a textbook stipend up to $1,000 per academic year. The length of service after 9/11 determines a veteran's maximum benefits. Call (978) 630-9270 for more information.

Over age 60?

Students age 60 and over, and who have been Massachusetts residents for at least one year, are eligible for a tuition and fees waiver at MWCC for credit courses. So, basically, they go to college for free! To take advantage of the waiver, senior citizens may not register for classes until one week prior to the start of classes. Call the Enrollment Center for more information (978) 630-9284.

FUNDS FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS

Transferring to a public college?

Through MassTransfer, students who attend MWCC and then transfer a four-year Massachusetts public college when they graduate are eligible to receive 1/3 off their tuition (not fees) at the receiving college or university for the first year. If the student maintains a 3.0 or higher QPA, they are eligible to receive the tuition waiver for their second semester as well.

Tax credits

The federal government offers parents and students two tuition tax credit programs, Hope/American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning, to help pay for higher education costs. If you meet certain conditions, you can qualify for a reduction on your federal income tax bill (however, you may not claim both the Hope/American Opportunity and the Lifetime credit for the same student in the same year).

Apply for scholarships

MWCC Foundation, Inc. offers over $220,000 annually to MWCC students through 40 named scholarship funds. Because these scholarships are limited to MWCC students, who must meet the criteria of each scholarship, they are definitely worth applying for. The scholarship deadline is March 10 for funds dispersed for the fall semester. For more information on scholarships, go to http://www.mwcc.edu/financial/

In MWCC's Visions Program?

MWCC's Visions Program helps students who are first-generation college students, low income, or disabled to persist through college and then eventually transfer. The Visions Program distributes $38,000 to about 40 Visions students who meet certain financial criteria each year. Students apply in the fall and funds are distributed in the spring. Visions is an educational opportunity TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, go to http://visions.mwcc.edu or call (978) 630-9297.

These scholarship and grant programs may have more criteria than listed in this article. Please see the sources provided for more information. Students must meet all eligibility requirements to take advantage of these programs.

See, there are plenty of ways to finance your education. Money is no longer excuse! CF

Think you can't afford college?

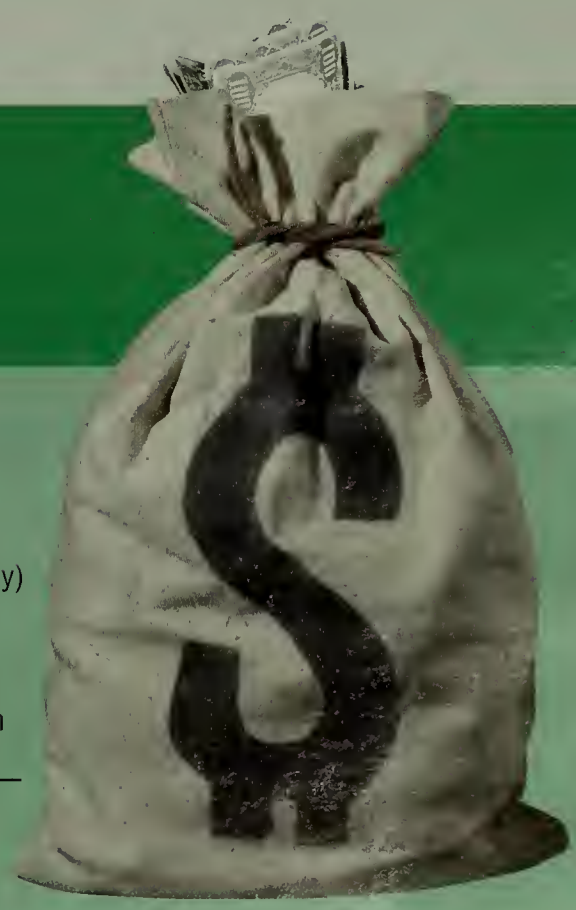
It may be more affordable than you think!

MWCC students typically receive some form of financial aid, grants, or scholarships.

Here is a common example of how an MWCC student might finance their education for a year:

$4,470	average per year to attend MWCC (tuition and fees only)
-$1,000	Arthur F. Haley Scholarship
-$3,000	in grants
-$300	tuition waiver for last semester in the Honors Program (with a 12 credit course load)
= $170	student contribution

Textbooks average $125 per course. Many students receive financial aid to cover textbooks, too.



Broadcasting & Electronic Media:

It's not just radio and television anymore

By Nichole Carter

There was a time when well-meaning parents and relatives would nervously try to dissuade a family member who wanted to get their degree in a "creative" profession, like Broadcasting & Electronic Media. "You'll never get a job," "the options are so limited," or "you will have to move far away" might be some of the arguments. However, those days are long over. Wherever you look, you will see evidence of people using their creativity and skill to entertain, inform, or persuade—all of these folks work in the communications field.

"No matter where you are, communication is all around you. It can come in the form of video, music, or multi-media and it may be on the Internet, radio, television, or even your cell phone," says Joel Anderson, chair of Mount Wachusett Community College's (MWCC) Broadcasting & Electronic Media program. "For whatever it is that you see or hear, there are professionals out there producing it. That is what MWCC's Broadcasting & Electronic Media program is all about."

Video, music, multi-media, and more

According to Anderson, people assume that working in broadcasting and electronic media means working exclusively in television or radio production. However, while this might reflect what the field was like years ago, it is completely different now. "Today, endless opportunities are available to our students in all different areas including: broadcast video/audio production, journalism, public relations, marketing, and Internet content, to name a few. Jobs are also available in all different industries." Anderson points out his own background where he worked for over 20 years producing corporate videos, and Audio Production Instructor John Little's background, which includes sound engineering for network-level television, radio, live performances, and recording studios.

"So many industries are now using electronic media—healthcare, education, and government, to name a few. It keeps growing all the time," he says. "It's impossible to predict the new industries students will enter doing this kind of work and exactly what they will do there because it just keeps expanding."

Alumni have reported working in a variety of positions from production to management to teaching. Some employers have included: WBZ-TV; Fox Sports, New England; WMUR-TV; NESN; Boston Celtics video operations; Syracuse University productions; WBUR-FM; WJAR-TV; Comcast Cable; WXNE-TV; ESPN; CBS TV Network; WTIC-TV; video production companies and agencies. Some grads have continued on to become faculty members at high schools and colleges.

Come a long way in 40 years

MWCC's Broadcasting & Electronic Media program is celebrating its 40th anniversary

Career Options for Broadcasting & Electronic Media Graduates

Production

- Writers, composers, designers
- Performing artists
- Engineering
- Technicians
- Management
- Sales, marketing, publicity
- Legal
- And more…

Industries

- Television/radio
- Cable
- Film production
- Music production
- Internet
- Advertising
- Multi-media (CD, DVD, etc…)
- Corporate/educational media
- Manufacturers, vendors, service
- And more…

this year. According to Vincent Ialenti, Ed.D., founder of the program and 40-year faculty member, the program was created during a time when the field was limited exclusively to television and radio, and at that time, television broadcasting at MWCC was in black and white. "MWCC was the first community college in Massachusetts to have a TV studio. Now we have that and multi-track audio recording studios, digital video and audio editing workstations, and high definition video field recording and editing capabilities."

"MWCC's facilities reflect a real world studio environment," says Nathan Haney, a 2006 graduate of the program who is now working as a studio technician for New England Sports Network and as a freelance TV technician, assisting with the live broadcast of professional sporting events in New England. "MWCC's studio set up and the equipment used are the same as you find working in the field."

Ialenti and Anderson point out that a prime goal of the program is teaching students what it is truly like to work in the field. "No matter what graduates pursue in communications, they need to understand the production process and be able to work as part of a team. They need to be able to work with people and share ideas. Sometimes they will be the leader, sometimes the follower. Whatever the dynamics are, they have to be able to meet the deadline with a quality product that makes the client happy," says Ialenti. "The program also includes courses in business to ensure that students have a well-rounded background in the business side of communications as well."

Real world experience

Because of the importance of gaining real world experience in landing that first job, students also have the option of completing an internship.

"My internship with WCVB Boston-Channel 5 was invaluable to my career," says Haney. "It gave me great experience to put on my resume."

According to Anderson, many internships have resulted in full or part-time positions for students once they graduated. Students also gain real world experience with activities such as the annual Rotary Club of Gardner, Mass. auction, which includes 10 hours of live television, completely produced and broadcasted by MWCC students. While the auction was once offered exclusively on local cable stations, it is now streamed online as well.

For students who may want a four-year degree, but don't want to wait until they are in their junior year to experience hands-on production courses, MWCC's program is a great option. "No other state college in Massachusetts offers as much hands-on training. Students must take two semesters of both audio and television production. At a four-year school, students are typically in their junior year before they actually handle this kind of equipment," says Anderson. "Also, MWCC has as many editing stations for small classes of students as other colleges have for large."

"Literally, within the first few days of taking classes at MWCC, you are hands-on with the equipment," says Haney. "You learn the basics right from the beginning. You are also still taking general education courses, but you are also taking production courses and you are focused on what you are there for."

Transfer options

After graduating from MWCC's program, Broadcasting & Electronic Media students have transferred to colleges including: Arizona State University, Boston University, Emerson College, Fitchburg State College, Franklin Pierce University, Ithaca College, Mass. College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), New York University, Syracuse University, University of Iowa, University of Southern California, Westfield State College, Worcester State College, and more.

Haney graduated from MWCC and transferred directly to MCLA. "Starting at MWCC was a great experience. I transferred to MCLA as a full junior and it only took me two years to complete my bachelor's degree," he says. "Today, I love what I am doing. I never go to work and feel like I am working. You just can't put a price on going to a job you like." **CF**

MWCC Broadcasting & Electronic Media Alumnus Nate Findley in Alaska. Traveling world-wide is part of his work as a videographer for Princess Cruise Lines.

MWCC Alumnus Travels the World as Videographer

Many people take videos when they travel to exotic locations, but MWCC alumnus Nate Findley gets paid to do it.

A 2007 graduate of MWCC's Broadcasting & Electronic Media program, Findley now works as a videographer for Princess Cruise Lines. Since joining the organization in 2009, he has practically circled the globe, creating videos of happy tourists in Alaska, China, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, the Caribbean, and Europe.

"I enjoy traveling," Findley says, "so this is a perfect job for me. I film the ship's events and also go on the land excursions as well." He then edits the footage to place on the ship's television channel and creates DVDs that are made available to passengers as souvenirs.

Findley graduated from Murdock Middle/High School in Winchendon in 2000, then served the country in the U.S. Marine Corps before enrolling in college. His interest in film led him to MWCC.

After graduating from MWCC, he transferred his credits to Fitchburg State College, where he earned a degree in Communications Media with a concentration in video production in 2009. He worked as an intern for the luxury cruise line while pursuing his bachelor's degree, a step that ultimately provided a foot in the door to land the job he has now.

"Everything I learned at 'the Mount' helped me transfer to Fitchburg State and continues to help me in my career. The camera work, editing—I continue to apply it to my work."

—Janice O'Connor

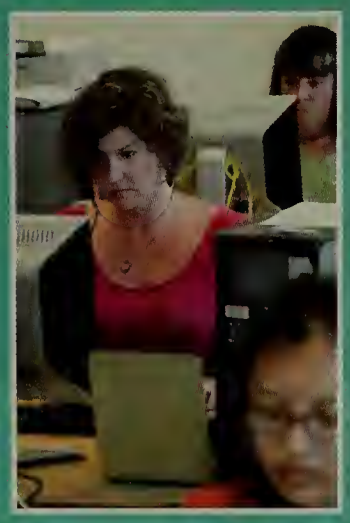
Feature

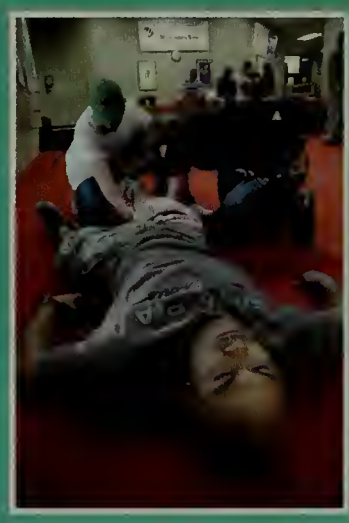
QUICK TAKES: One or Two Courses May Be All You Need to Get Into the Healthcare Field

By Nichole Carter

You'd like to get into the healthcare field, but you don't have two to four years to complete a college degree. Or maybe you're looking for something that will help you earn more money sooner rather than later, something that will challenge your mind, yet doesn't require a long-term commitment.

By taking just one or two courses at MWCC, you may be able to start on a whole new career path (some may take longer depending on whether developmental coursework is required). Many of these courses are also required for some of MWCC's healthcare certificate and degree programs, so they may be the perfect start into furthering your education and career.





EKG Technician

In one thee credit course—EKG: Concepts and Practice—students are introduced to the cardiovascular system, electrocardiography (EKG) monitoring, basic rhythm interpretation, and the role of the EKG technician. An EKG technician performs tests, such as the electrocardiogram, which records the heart's electrical activity. Students learn through classroom lecture and practical application, learning how to do EKGs and other cardiovascular testing in a hospital setting.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

The EMT program requires the completion of two three-credit courses: EMT I and II. People's lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care of EMTs—these professionals provide vital attention, caring for and transporting the sick or injured to medical facilities. In an emergency, EMTs and paramedics typically are dispatched to the scene, where they determine the nature and extent of the patient's condition. Following strict rules and guidelines, they give appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patient.

Healthy-Steps

Healthy-Steps is a three credit course preparing students to become instructors in Healthy-Steps, Moving You to Better Health with the Lebed Method. Healthy-Steps takes traditional movement and physiotherapy and incorporates music and dance to help patients to move more freely. This program helps those who are recovering from cancer, surgery, or dealing with chronic disorders to heal and thrive both physically and emotionally. The class will be held over three consecutive weekends: Sept. 17 and 18, 24 and 25, and Oct. 1 and 2 at MWCC's Devens Campus. Students take an exam at the end, which leads to certification. The course is being taught by Diane Ouelette-Barnaby, RN, CLMTA, owner of the Body Wellness Company, Leominster. For more information, email bodywellco@hotmail.com.

Nurse Aide

Nurse aide is a one-semester credit program in which students take a three credit and a two credit course: Nurse Assistant Theory and Nurse Assistant Practicum. Students then take a certifying exam to become certified nurse aides. Nurse aides have direct contact with long-term patients in hospitals, nursing care facilities, and mental health settings. They provide hands-on care and perform routine tasks under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider.

Phlebotomist

A phlebotomist is skilled in blood collection and the preparation of certain specimens for diagnostic laboratory testing as ordered by a physician. This program consists of a three credit and a four credit course: Introduction to Phlebotomy and Phlebotomy Clinical Practicum. Prepare for careers as phlebotomists in various healthcare settings such as hospitals, physicians' offices, HMOs, surgical centers, and independent laboratories. Courses include formal coursework, laboratory practice, and clinical practicum (a three week, 40 hour per week commitment).

Medical Billing & Coding and Medical Transcriptionist

While MWCC's three new online noncredit programs, Medical Billing & Coding, Medical Transcriptionist, and Medical Editor, require more than one of two courses, they can be completed in less than one year, and those with previous healthcare experience may be able to complete them even faster. These programs require 640 hours online. They cost $2,400, and even include a free HP laptop, as well as headset and pedals. You get to keep the laptop at the conclusion of the course. For more information on these programs, call (978) 630-9575.

For those who prefer to earn college credits to be applied to a certificate program, MWCC is also offering a new Medical Coding & Billing Certificate (see page 15 for a full description), Medical Office Certificate as well as courses in Medical Terminology and Medical Machine Transcription. The certificates typically take at least one year to complete.

For more information on any of the courses listed in this article, call the Enrollment Center, (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu. CF

"We know that in the coming years, **jobs requiring at least an associate degree** are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience. We will not fill those jobs—or even keep those jobs here in America—without the **training offered by community colleges.**"

President Barack Obama speaking at Macomb Community College, MI, July 14, 2009

Facts AND Finds

Financial Aid Myths

Literally billions of dollars in financial aid is available to those who need help paying for college. Yet lots of misinformation clouds the facts about what type of aid is available and who is eligible. This is the concluding edition of MWCC's series "Financial Aid Myths," which was also offered in the spring and summer 2010 issues of *CareerFocus*.

Myth: If I apply for a loan, I have to take it

Families are not obligated to accept a low-interest loan if it is awarded to them. "I think everyone should apply for financial aid to discover the options that are available," says JoEllen Soucier, director of student records and financial management. "Student loans are at all-time low interest rates." She recommends applying and comparing the loan awards with other debt instruments and assets to determine the best financial deal.

Myth: There's less aid available than there used to be

In fact, student financial aid in 2008-2009 was at a record level of $168.4 billion. Most students receive some form of aid and most of this aid is in the form of institutional grants and loans. You should consider carefully the financing packages you've been offered by each college to determine which makes the most financial sense.

Don't Lose Your Mind! Learning keeps your memory sharp

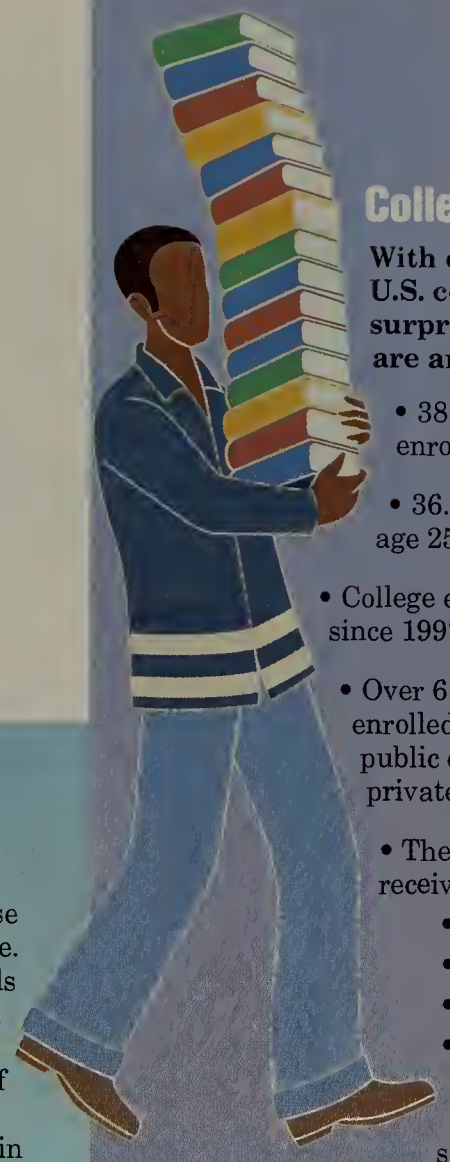
Have you ever misplaced your keys? Gone to the grocery store for milk and brought home bread? Stress, fatigue, lack of sleep, medication, depression or poor physical health can all play a part in the occasional memory lapse.

There is no question that learning keeps the brain from stagnation. Just as your muscles require regular exercise to keep them in good shape and prevent their deterioration, the central nervous system and especially the brain require constant exercise to keep it in as good a shape as possible.

Some simple actions can help slow cognitive decline:

- Find people and purpose. While respite from the work-day grind may be welcome, the lack of a routine, consistent interaction with others, and new challenges can create a feeling of lack of purpose. This plants seeds of depression that can in turn impact memory. Regular social interaction at clubs or classes or through volunteering can lift the veil of isolation, keeping depression at bay and enhancing memory to boot.
- Keep learning to keep your mind and memory active. While mentally challenging games like crossword puzzles and Sudoko can be helpful in memory maintenance, learning a new skill, subject or language helps to create new neural pathways in the brain—the roadways to better memory. Those who take classes reinforce learning through discussion with other people. They combine two of the best memory builders—new learning and regular social interaction.

Facts and Finds



College Today

With over 18 million people in U.S. colleges today, you might be surprised to learn who these students are and what they're doing.

- 38.8 percent of all 18- to 24-year-olds are enrolled in college.
- 36.8 percent of all college students are age 25 or older.
- College enrollment has increased 28 percent since 1997.
- Over 6 million undergraduate students are enrolled at public two-year colleges, 7 million at public colleges and universities, and 4 million at private four-year institutions.
- The percentage of college students who received "Mostly A's" in their classes:
  - 24 percent at for-profit colleges
  - 18 percent at private four-year colleges
  - 17 percent at public two-year colleges
  - 12 percent at public four-year colleges.
- 71 percent of private four-year college students, 61 percent of public four-year college students, and 37 percent of two-year public college students graduate with student-loan debt.
- The average amount of student loan debt is $20,891 for private college graduates, $19,839 for four-year public college graduates, and $10,444 for two-year public college graduates.

From The Chronicle of Higher Education *"Almanac 2009-10", Aug. 28, 2009*

College Raises Women's Wages

One important reason why women make more money today than they did 30 years ago is that they have more education. In 1979, when women made just 62 percent as much as men, only 45 percent were high school graduates and 35 percent had any college education.

But by 2008, women were making 80 percent as much as men and 93 percent had a high school diploma and 66 percent had some college. That pay gap between men and women varies widely among age groups too. Among people age 35 and older, women earn just 75 percent as much as men. Among people 25 to 34 years old, women earn 89 percent as much as men, and for 16- to 24-year-olds, it's 91 percent.

From the Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Editor's Desk *July 31, 2009, "Women's-to-men's earnings ratio, 1979-2008"*

Start *Near*...Go Far:

Starting at MWCC and Transferring is Key to Success for Many Students

Starting at a community college and then transferring to a baccalaureate institution is a common strategy for students looking to earn a bachelor's degree. And, there is growing evidence of more and more students considering the transfer route for financial as well as the practical reasons it provides.

Approximately 30 percent of Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) students are enrolled in transfer programs. With transfer agreements among Massachusetts public colleges and universities, as well as many private and out-of-state colleges, students can start a bachelor's degree at MWCC knowing their courses will transfer.

The rising cost of a college education at a four-year institution is often overwhelming. Students are finding that it just makes sense to start at a community college where they will save on the first half of their education toward a bachelor's degree; they will have the ability to explore many different interests without accumulating a lot of debt; and they will benefit from small class sizes and lots of extra-curricular opportunities.

MWCC alumnus Adam Nadeau at the Isenberg School of Management at UMass, Amherst.

Finding yourself

For students who want to pursue a baccalaureate degree, but are unsure of their personal and career goals, MWCC is a great option.

This was the case for Adam Nadeau. For a few years after high school, he entered the workforce, but soon recognized the limitations he would continue to face if he remained in an unfulfilling job. "I had to make a change and Mount Wachusett Community College allowed me to explore my options without accumulating debt," says Nadeau.

Nadeau changed his major once before finding his passion in Business Administration. "I really liked the professors. They saw my potential, cared about my success, and made me want to be and do more," says Nadeau.

By the time he graduated, Nadeau was a member of two honors societies, a volunteer with the Income Tax Assistance Program helping community members in need prepare their taxes, and belonged to several MWCC clubs and organizations. Nadeau received the MWCC President's Key award, which is bestowed upon students who achieve a perfect 4.0 QPA.

Upon graduating, he transferred to the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst to major in Finance and Operations Management. All of his credits transferred under the Commonwealth Transfer Compact (now the MassTransfer program).

Financial benefits

Not only did Nadeau find a new beginning by pursuing his education, but he saved big by starting at MWCC as well. Nadeau was a 2007 recipient of the Arthur F. Haley Scholarship, which helped him finance his college education at MWCC. He received a scholarship for $5,000 a year for the next two years through a community college transfer scholarship awarded by UMass. He was also able to take advantage of the Joint Admissions program (now the MassTransfer program), which guaranteed his acceptance into the Isenberg School of Management. In addition, Nadeau was able to take advantage of the Tuition Advantage Program (now the MassTransfer program), which saved him 100 percent of his tuition at UMass Amherst for up to two years. That's more than $1,734 a year that he saved for a total of $3,468. (Other state colleges and universities offer a 1/3 off of tuition for eligible students.)

"Many students don't realize the scholarship and savings opportunities available to them by starting at a community college," says Nancy Greenlaw, associate director of transfer planning services. "Students routinely graduate from MWCC, many with little or no debt. Then, they often receive additional tuition or scholarship benefits when they transfer to a baccalaureate institution."

Nadeau graduated from UMass this past May. Before graduating, he was offered a position as a product specialist at Staples corporate headquarters in Framingham. "MWCC made it all possible," says Nadeau. "The professors at MWCC encouraged me and gave me the confidence to continue my education at UMass. When I arrived at UMass, I felt well-prepared for my studies."

MWCC alumna Ashley Gough is now at Smith College.

Small class sizes, big opportunities

Not only do students benefit from affordability and the ability to explore interests, the small class sizes and range of opportunities are also great reasons to start at a community college.

Ashley Gough, an MWCC Liberal Arts & Sciences graduate, credits the personal attention she received and the availability of extra-curricular opportunities at MWCC for helping her realize her potential and eventually transfer to Smith College.

According to Gough, MWCC faculty and staff encouraged her and recognized her talents. Gough became the editor for MWCC's newspaper, *The Mount Observer,* and was a member of the Honors Program, as well as a member of the Visions Program, which provides support to students who are first-generation college students, low income, or disabled.

While at MWCC, Gough received the prestigious 2008 Payne Journalism Award for Ethics, a national award presented annually by the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communications, as well as the Judge Moore Award for her performance in English and writing at MWCC.

"Getting involved made me feel important to the college. It held me to a high level of achievement, which was good for me and gave me self-confidence," she says.

"My experience at MWCC has inspired me to go as far as I can in whatever I want to pursue."

Gough is now majoring in English at Smith College. "Visions Program staff strongly encouraged me to aim high and brought me on college tours. When I got to Smith, it just felt right," she says. With no loan debt from her first two years of college, Gough also credits MWCC with helping her to save before transferring for a bachelor's degree at Smith.

While attending a community college holds obvious advantages like tuition rates, class size and the ability to explore programs, there's also the over 100 agreements MWCC holds with baccalaureate institutions to ease the transfer process.

3 Plus ONE

One of the newest programs is"3 Plus ONE," which expands the options for associate degree graduates interested in a convenient, cost-effective path to a bachelor's degree. MWCC has forged agreements with four-year institutions allowing students to earn their associate degree at MWCC, complete up to another 30 additional credits at MWCC at MWCC's prices, and then transfer the credits to a partner college. The final year can be completed online, at MWCC, or on-campus at the four-year school, depending on the option selected. The program enables students to earn a high-quality bachelor's degree in a convenient, cost-effective manner.

Agreements for 3 Plus ONE exist with Nichols College, Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Franklin University, and Regis College. **CF**

MWCC Transfer Information: http://transfer.mwcc.edu
3 Plus ONE: www.mwcc.edu/3plusone
MassTransfer: www.mass.edu/masstransfer

Eric Gendron with MWCC Business Professor Dr. Michael T. Greenwood.

First 3 Plus ONE Graduate Gets "A Head Start on Life"

Eric Gendron is on a fast track to success. As a teenager, he participated in a dual enrollment program at MWCC, earning 24 college credits while also completing his senior year at Quabbin Regional High School.

After earning his high school diploma, the South Barre resident continued at MWCC and earned an associate degree in business in 2008 at age 18. He was encouraged by Professor Michael T. Greenwood, chair of MWCC's business department, to enroll in the "3 Plus ONE" transfer program with Nichols College.

A growing number of MWCC business students are choosing this new path to a baccalaureate degree. Under this program, Business Administration graduates can complete a third year of coursework at MWCC, at MWCC prices, then transfer all 90 credits to Nichols to complete a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Students may take the final year of courses online, at a satellite campus or at Nichols' campus in Dudley.

This past December, Gendron completed all of the course requirements for a bachelor's degree at age 20 and officially became the first student to graduate from the 3 Plus ONE program with Nichols. After gaining some work experience, he plans to continue on for a master's in business administration.

Gendron was recently hired as a financial planner, two weeks and three interviews after attending a job fair at Nichols.

"The program was a perfect fit for me," Gendron says. "It gave me a head start on life at a great savings."

—Janice O'Connor

We're Closer Than You Think:

MWCC's Devens Campus Satisfying Area Need for Health and Tech. Professionals

By Nichole Carter

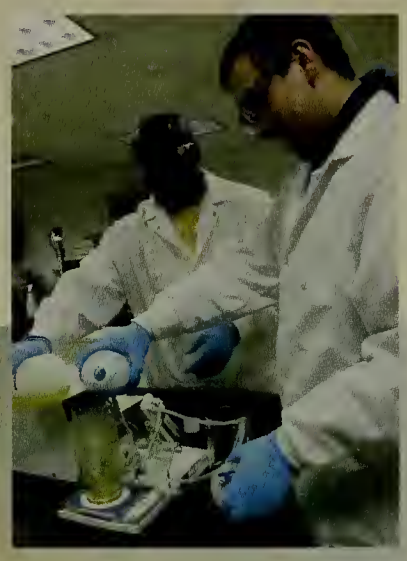
When Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) President Daniel M. Asquino saw the space for the new Devens Campus four years ago, he saw unlimited possibilities. "Forty thousand square feet of space was available in the former Fort Devens intelligence building where we could offer education and training in a region that is just being redeveloped and just starting to realize its potential," says Asquino. "This was such an exciting opportunity for the community, and MWCC."

MWCC has long been drawing students from the Devens region. Before Fort Devens closed in 1996, MWCC was providing education and training for military personnel stationed there. "With the military installation gone, and a region redeveloping its focus, it seemed natural for Mount Wachusett Community College to be there, to serve the educational needs as new industries move into the area," says Asquino. "We also saw this as a great opportunity for our students who would be trained for jobs in their region."

A campus for emerging technology

This past year, President Asquino announced that the campus would be dedicated to emerging technology and healthcare programs to satisfy the area's need for technical and medical professionals. According to Economic Modeling Specialist, Inc., some of the top growing professions in the Devens region include registered nurses, nurse aides, medical secretaries, biological technicians, and medical records technicians.

"Our goal is to meet the economic and job needs of the surrounding community and businesses," says Julie Crowley, director of the Devens Campus. "Devens is quickly growing in the areas of healthcare and biotechnology and we are now offering more and more programs focused in these areas."



Programs at the Devens Campus include:

Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing Certificate and Degree

Your first question may be "What is biotechnology/biomanufacturing?" When applied toward the pharmaceutical industry, which is the primary application of biotechnology in the Devens region, biotechnology is the use of living organisms to develop new and potentially life-saving medicines.

MWCC staff works closely with area companies, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Bionostics, Genzyme Corporation, and New England Peptide, to ensure that the program's curriculum turns out highly-skilled employees. The result is a range of courses on biotech basics, the use and calibration of standard lab instruments, preparation of media and solutions, and protocols for DNA isolation, gene mapping, expression and regulation. Graduates can pursue careers as lab technicians, lab assistants, research assistants, and manufacturing technicians.

Through corporate donations, and a $1.6-million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, MWCC has been able to outfit labs at MWCC's Devens Campus with state-of-the-art equipment, provide scholarships, and hire training faculty.

The program also includes the option of an intensive 12-week noncredit program for those looking to quickly update their skills.

Energy Management Certificate and Degree

The new Energy Management Certificate and Degree programs were created to satisfy the need for professionals trained in green technologies, which is expected to grow over the next decade. The program, the first of its type in New England, prepares students for a variety of existing and emerging career paths and provides a transferable academic foundation for students interested in pursuing bachelor's degrees in engineering, energy management, building technology or sustainability-related programs of study.

These programs are for students interested in careers in the energy efficiency and clean energy field, such as energy management specialists, resource conservation project assistants, compliance analysts, energy auditors, building performance retrofit specialists, sustainability coordinators or building controls technicians.

Devens Adult Learning Center

The Devens Campus also provides free pre-GED and GED classes, a math preparation program, and English as a Second Language classes through the Devens Adult Learning Center. These programs are funded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in addition to funding from the Workforce Investment Act.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Bridge to Nursing Degree

MWCC offers current LPNs a bridge program to complete requirements for the Nursing Associate Degree. Credit is given for the first course of the degree, Foundations of Nursing, allowing applicants to enter their second semester nursing courses. Applicants must hold current licensure as an LPN with one year work experience. This program is a selective enrollment program; admission is competitive and the application process requires

additional components. This is a hybrid program (1/3 on-campus and 2/3 online).

Medical Coding & Billing Certificate

Medical Coders assign codes to medical diagnoses, procedures and services for which the healthcare providers will be reimbursed. Medical billers facilitate the claims paying process from the time a service is rendered by a healthcare provider until the balance is paid. If you are detail-oriented, have strong computer skills, and are seeking a career in healthcare, the Certificate in Medical Coding & Billing may be for you.

Medical Office Certificate

The Medical Office Certificate program provides students with the skills and knowledge needed in a medical office environment: medical secretarial procedures, medical terminology, coding and billing, word processing, and medical machine transcription. Medical office staff may answer phones, order supplies, handle correspondence, bill patients, complete insurance forms, and transcribe dictation. They also handle bookkeeping, greet patients, schedule appointments, arrange hospital admissions, and schedule surgeries. This program is a great lead-in to MWCC's Medical Assisting Associate Degree.

Nurse Aide

Nurse aide is a one-semester credit program in which students take two courses: Nurse Assistant Theory and Nurse Assistant Practicum. Students then take a certifying exam to become certified nurse aides. Nurse aides have direct contact with long-term patients in hospitals, nursing care facilities, and mental health settings. They provide hands-on care and perform routine tasks under the supervision of a licensed healthcare provider.

Physical Therapist Assistant Degree

Physical therapist assistants (PTA) implement treatment procedures in the rehabilitation of injured, ill, or debilitated individuals. The PTA Degree program prepares individuals to work in the healthcare field under the direct supervision of a physical therapist in a variety of settings. The program also prepares students for the PTA licensure exam.

This program is a selective enrollment program; admission is competitive and the application process requires additional components.

Students interested in attending classes at MWCC's Devens Campus can find more information at www.mwcc.edu/devens or by calling (978) 630-9569. Students can also apply online to MWCC at www.mwcc.edu, and once they have their acceptance letter, call the Devens Campus to set up an appointment for placement testing and to meet with an advisor to select courses. CF

Devens Campus

One Jackson Place, 27 Jackson Road
Devens • (978) 630-9569

Open Mon. – Thurs., 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.;
Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(when Sat. classes are in session)

For directions or more information go to www.mwcc.edu/devens

Open house Wed., Aug. 18!
(see the inside back cover for more information)

Campus Resources

- Hybrid courses (1/3 on-campus, 2/3 online)
- Financial aid
- Pay your tuition on-site
- Bookstore hours
- Wireless Internet access
- Individual class registration
- Student lounge
- Career services
- Servicing students day and evening
- Advising and counseling referral services
- Courses fulfilling the requirements of MWCC's Liberal Arts and General Studies Degrees

Prepare for "Growing" Positions in Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing

Find out how MWCC's biotechnology degree and certificate programs, as well MWCC's noncredit biomanufacturing workforce training program, can prepare you for a new, rewarding career. Learn about scholarships and funding available to cover program costs. For those interested in the noncredit program, MWCC's next class runs Aug. 30 to Nov. 19 (application deadline is July 30). Biotechnology faculty and representatives from the One Stop Career Center will answer questions.

Mon., Aug. 2
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

To register, call (978) 630-9578,
TTY (978) 632-4916,
or send an email to tmorin@mwcc.mass.edu

Transform Your Career With the Power of Renewable Energy

Enrolling in MWCC's Energy Management Certificate or Degree program means:

- Learning about new green educational and career paths
- Developing skills required for the new clean energy economy
- Engaging in campus-wide sustainability initiatives
- Discovering more about emerging clean energy technologies
- Gaining practical experience with real world building projects
- Interacting with energy industry practitioners and pioneers

Date	Time	Location
July 22	3:00 p.m.	Devens (room TBD)
August 19	3:00 p.m.	Gardner Campus, room 201 To register, please call the enrollment center (978) 630-9284. www.mwcc.edu/renewable/

How the Final Student Loan Reform Bill Affects YOU

By JoEllen Soucier

Applying for and receiving financial aid has never been simpler. With the recent passing of the final student loan reform bill, significant changes are now being made to the student loan application and delivery process to streamline it as much as possible for students.

What it *was* like...

In the past, if you applied for financial aid and received a Stafford loan (formerly the Guaranteed Student Loan Program), you would then have to apply for your loan through a private lender. This system was called the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

Beginning July 1, 2010, all colleges and universities are required to convert to direct lending which streamlines the entire student loan application, counseling, delivery, and repayment processes. Instead of working with multiple private lenders, colleges and universities will now work with a single entity, the federal government, to deliver Stafford student loan funds.

From here, the process could get confusing. There were several lenders to choose from, the application and payment processes were different with each lender, and each college had their own preferred lenders. Then, you might have received your loan from a bank, but you also received communications from their guarantee agency, or other agencies the bank was affiliated with. Many students were left scratching their heads, "Who is my loan through? How does this work? Who do I contact if I need help?"

Some colleges opted out of this program, and administered their student loans using the Federal Direct Loan Program, processed directly with the federal government. These differences have caused uncertainty among students, multiple loans for students who attend more than one college or university, and an increased risk of students becoming delinquent or in default on their student loans.

What is the final student loan reform bill?

On March 25, 2010, an historic event occurred when President Barack Obama signed the final student loan reform bill which made significant changes to the student loan application and delivery process. This new legislation has removed the Stafford student loans from private banks and lenders which, in turn, eliminated the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Beginning July 1, 2010, all colleges and universities are required to convert to direct lending which streamlines the entire application, counseling, delivery, and repayment processes. Colleges and universities will now work with a single entity, the federal government, to deliver Stafford student loan funds.

How this affects you

Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) converted to the federal direct loan program in March 2009. Now, communicating loan information to students has never been simpler. Students who borrowed loans from the FFELP program in prior years have the option of consolidating their Stafford loans into one Direct Loan prior to repayment to eliminate having multiple loans. All students seeking student loan funding use the same website for information and application processes and the need to choose a student loan lender for their Stafford loan has been eliminated.

Students receive the same repayment terms and interest rates as they did when the funding came from the private banks and lenders. Removing the mystery of "who" the student obtained their loan from has been solved and replaced by a multi-million dollar savings for the federal government, which chose to put that savings into more grant dollars for low-income students and families. It's a win-win situation.

The support that colleges and universities received from private banks and lenders over the past 40+ years was appreciated by financial aid professionals and will not be forgotten. **CF**

Applying for a student loan to attend MWCC:

- **Apply for a PIN number and complete the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Applicants should list MWCC's school code number on the application: 002172.**
- **Complete required paperwork requested by the financial aid office**
- **Review online award package and accept loan offer**
- **Complete entrance loan counseling at www.studentloans.gov**
- **Complete the Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentloans.gov**

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www.nichols.edu/eveningonline

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You'll take your third year classes on the MWCC campus with MWCC instructors. Your fourth year is with Nichols College—the classes can be taken on the MWCC campus or online. Please note, you must be accepted before the end of your second year. **It's affordable, convenient and smart.**

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To find out more, contact Nichols at 800-243-3844 or AtoB@nichols.edu.

Become part of the Nichols Network on www.facebook.com/Nichols.College and www.linkedin.com (search for Nichols College)

Kick Off YOUR Education

MWCC Kick-off events will provide resources to walk you through the enrollment process – applying to MWCC, filling out the FAFSA, taking the placement tests, and registering for classes.

Apply to MWCC - 1st down
Fill out your financial aid application – 1st & 10
Take your placement tests – 1st and goal
Meet with an advisor and register for classes – Touchdown!

Kick-off details for each campus:

Tues., August 10, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Leominster Campus *(placement testing at 3 PM by appointment)*
100 Erdman Way, Leominster
(978) 840-3221

Wed., August 18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Devens Campus *(placement testing at 3 PM by appointment)*
One Jackson Place, 27 Jackson Road, Devens
(978) 630-9569

Thurs., August 26, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Gardner Campus *(placement testing at 3 PM by appointment)*
444 Green Street, Gardner
(978) 630-9244

Mount Wachusett Community College

For more information, contact the Enrollment Center at **(978) 630-9284** or admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

www.mwcc.edu/fall2010 AA/EEO Institution

MWCC

STAY FOCUSED, WORK HARD AND WIN THE GAME!

MWCC has the Program for YOU!

Deciding what you'd like to do with your life? Take a look at MWCC's programs. With a certificate or associate degree, you can get into a career in two years or less. If your goal is to earn a bachelor's degree, our transfer programs will get you halfway there (or more) - and at about half the cost.

Associate Degrees

Accounting Option (BACA)*
Allied Health Concentration (GSAH)*
Art—Professional Track (RTP)
Art—Traditional Program (RT)
Automotive Technology (ATD)
Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing (BTD)
Broadcasting & Electronic Media (BCT)
Business Administration—Career (BAC)
Business Administration—Transfer (BA)
Business Administration—Transfer (ABAT) *(accelerated format)*
Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS)
Communications Concentration (LAC)*
Complementary Health Care—Massage Therapy (CHD)
Complementary Health Care—Yoga Teacher Training (CHY)
Computer Graphic Design—Print (CGD)
Computer Graphic Design—Web Design (CGW)
Computer Information Systems (CIS)
Criminal Justice—Corrections (CJCD)
Criminal Justice—Law Enforcement (CJL)
Dental Hygiene (DHY)
Early Childhood Education—Career (ECC)
Early Childhood Education—Transfer (ECT)
Elementary Education Concentration (LAEL)*
Energy Management (EGD)
Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Concentration (LAX)*
General Studies (GS)
History & Political Science Concentration (LAHP)*
Human Services (HS)
Liberal Arts (LA)
Liberal Studies (LAS)
Manufacturing Technology—Plastics (PLT)
Medical Assisting (MAS)
Natural Resources (NRD)
Nursing (NU) and (NUE)
Paralegal Studies (PLD)
Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)
Pre-Engineering Track (LAER)*
Theatre Arts Concentration (LAT)*

Certificate Programs

Accounting (CAA)
Allied Health (AHC)
Automotive Technology (ATC)
Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing (BTC)
Business Administration (BUC)
Complementary Health Care (CHC)
Computer Graphic Design—Print (CGDC)
Computer Graphic Design—Web Design (CGWC)
Energy Management (EGC)
Human Service Technician (HSC)
IT Support Specialist (ITC)
Law Enforcement (CJLC)
Massage Therapy (MTC)
Medical Coding & Billing (MCC)
Medical Office (MOC)
Office Assistant (OAC)
Paralegal (PLS)
Practical Nurse (PN)
Professional Photography (PHO)
Small Business Management (SBC)

Other Options

Emergency Medical Technician Certificate of Completion
English as a Second Language Courses
Honors Program
Phlebotomy Certificate of Completion
Radiologic Technologist Articulation Agreement

**Denotes concentration of an associate degree*

NEW PROGRAMS FOR FALL

Accounting Option Degree* ***A degree in Business Administration–Career***
Accounting is the number one college degree sought by employers again this year. Understand the basic principles of accounting for the preparation of internal reports related to the management and decision-making processes of a firm.

Business Administration—Transfer Degree (ABAT) ***(accelerated format)***
Complete your degree in just one year! Classes meet conveniently year-round on Fridays during the day, online and Wednesday evenings. Some benefits include: cost savings of more than $5,000; transfer options with several public and private colleges, and cohort study groups and tutoring.

Pre-Engineering Track Degree* ***A degree in Liberal Studies***
Receive a solid foundation in mathematics, chemistry, physics, and computer science to transfer into and achieve success in any engineering science degree program.

Medical Coding & Billing Certificate
Medical coders assign codes to medical diagnoses, procedures and services for which the healthcare providers will be reimbursed. Medical billers facilitate the claims paying process from the time a service is rendered by a healthcare provider until the balance is paid. If you are detail-oriented, have strong computer skills, and are seeking a career in healthcare, this certificate may be for you.

Professional Photography Certificate
Today's photographer is artistic, technically and technologically skilled, as well as business savvy. Explore careers in studio/portrait photography, commercial photography, photojournalism and digital imaging, or continue your education to obtain an associate degree.

Mount Wachusett
Community College
www.mwcc.edu

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